PATENT
Docket No. 249.00020101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Dominic E. Cosgrove
Serial No.: 09/970,318
Confirmation No.: 1885
Filed: October 3, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1641
Examiner: Bao Thuy L. Nguyen

For: IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC DETERMINATION OF USHER SYNDROME TYPE ~~II~~IIA

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified application for examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

Usher syndrome Type ~~II~~IIA is the most common of the three Usher syndromes. Although originally it was believed that Usher Type II accounted for only about 10% of all Usher cases, more recent research shows that Type II actually accounts for over half of all Usher cases. The USH2A gene has been localized to chromosome 1q41 between D1S474 and AFM144FX2 (Kimberling et al., *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, *56*:216-223 (1995); Sumegi et al., *Genomics*, *35*:79-86 (1996)), and more recently, the gene has been identified (Eudy et al., *Science*, *280*:1753-1757 (1998)). However, there are Usher Type II families whose disease locus cannot be linked to the 1q41 region. Two new Usher II loci have been localized to 3p and 5q (Pieke-Dahl et al., *J. Med. Genet.*, *37*:256-262 (2000);